2019

Organ donation is a rare event

Not everyone can become an organ donor when they die. To be an organ donor, a person must die in a hospital’s intensive care unit (ICU) or emergency department (ED) and be medically assessed as suitable to donate organs for transplantation.

~2%

Only around 2% of people who die in Australian hospitals can be considered for organ donation.

Australia's potential deceased organ donor population and transplantation outcomes

Around 80,000 people die in Australian hospitals each year but only around 2% of them can be considered for organ donation.

In Australia the family is always asked to consent to donation. Requests to families for donation were made in 1,224 cases, with 756 families saying ‘yes’. This represents a consent rate of 62%.

With donation possible in so few cases, and with so many people needing an organ transplant, it is vital more people in the potential donor pool say ‘yes’ to donation.

If more people say ‘yes’ to organ donation, more transplants will occur.

Sources
4. DonateLife Audit, January 2020
5. Deceased organ donation in Australia, Australia and New Zealand Organ Donor Registry, January 2020

Organ and Tissue Authority
www.donatelife.gov.au

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